

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 1888.

Is It The Same?

One of our esteemed readers and an original Bloomfielder, states, that years ago, when new people began to move into town, the natives were told that new comers should be encouraged to build and locate permanently, because they would help to pay the taxes. He observed, that he had now heard that doctrine advanced for twenty-five years, but that the taxes are as high as ever, if not a little higher. The meaning intended to be conveyed is, of course not withstanding the great increase in wealth and population, the town is no better off than it was twenty-five years ago. And if the percentage written on our city bills is to be taken as an absolute index of our relative prosperity the conclusion is correct. But this is not fair.

There are two ways of estimating price—by what you pay and by what you get. If the amount paid remains the same, as our friend states it has, in the case of the inhabitants of the township of Bloomfield, then we are no better off to-day than we were twenty-five years ago, provided we have received no more for our money than the people did in the fifties and sixties. But this is not the case. Increase in wealth and population in the township at large, while it has not relieved the individual citizen in the amount of his annual tax bill, has given him tenfold more for his money.

It is not necessary to resort to the "oldest inhabitants" to learn something about the roads, under the administration of the old Road Masters, who almost invariably ploughed out the gutters and mounded up the centres, late in the fall, so that for weeks during the winter and spring weary horses dragged wagons half hub deep through the soft mire. In those days it often took fifteen minutes to go a mile with the best trotter in town. While the winter and spring gave muddy roads, the summer gave us stony roads, for by that time the dirt, thrown up in the fall over the stones, had in the shape of mud found its way back to the gutter, where it remained awaiting the fall and the plough of the overseer. Instead of this we now have miles of stone roads on the main thoroughfares and other miles of gravel roads which afford a reasonably sure foundation for hoofs and wheels while the dirt roads are worked at seasons of the year and in a manner which suggests good sense instead of stupidity.

Then we have miles of gas and water mains through most of the principal streets so that householders enjoy those two great conveniences of the city, gas and water within their houses. The general public use the streets by night with comfort and security and property is made reasonably secure from the dangers of fire. We have faint suggestion of olden times, when the moon shines according to the almanac and not otherwise; and we wonder how we ever got along before the days of gas.

Our public grounds are in a condition which delights the eye of both native and stranger and adds value to every square foot of ground in the township, the public roads are cleaned up each season, besides being repaired giving an air of general thrift and prosperity. Let this be contrasted with the days when the "Green" was the common pasturing ground and the sides of the roads were gardens of weeds and receptacles for rubbish. A most efficient fire department, though now in its youngest and therefore most expensive days, has relieved our minds from the constant fear of a conflagration, which might sweep out of existence the whole centre of the town, and a small but effective police force gives peace and quiet where rowdiness once held full sway.

Besides all this there is a general efficiency of administration of town ship affairs not known in ancient days here nor now in the interior townships of the State, so that instead of being no better off under the new order of things, simply because the tax rate has not altered, it is easily seen that there is no comparison between the two eras when the advantages now employed are taken into account.

The Teachers to Visit Edison.

The Essex County Teachers' Association will hold its next regular meeting at Mr. Edison's Laboratory, Valley Road, West Orange, on Saturday morning, June 2d, at 9:45 o'clock. The program will be a very informal one. Mr. E. A. Kennelly, one of the managers of the Laboratory, will conduct the teachers and their friends through the building, and explain the inventions, etc. After the tour of inspection the annual meeting for the election of officers of the Association will be held in the lecture room. Train leaves Newark at 9:03 and Roseville at 9:08. The Eagle Rock stage, at Orange station, will take teachers direct to the Laboratory. Those coming on Erie Branch leave train at Llewellyn station, which is near the place of meeting. The terminus of the Orange horse-car line is a ten minutes' walk from the Laboratory.

Give These Matters a Thought.

No matter what your ability to provide for your family, and make money, is it not common prudence to supplement the value of your estate with such collateral security as Life Insurance? Property sometimes depreciates in value, and the proceeds of a policy make good the loss to your estate. The most careful judgment as to investment is often found to result disastrously, in which case the policy comes to the rescue. If you are at present prosperous and making money, the premium of an insurance will not be conspicuous among your annual expenditures. If you are, as you think, only able to make both ends meet, do not your family absolutely need the aid of Life Insurance to maintain anything like the position they now occupy, if you should be taken from them? Can you make such a provision more certainly and with less outlay? Examine the record of the Mutual Life for 45 years. Does it not behoove you to "Give these matters a thought?" E.

1843 188

January 1, 1888.

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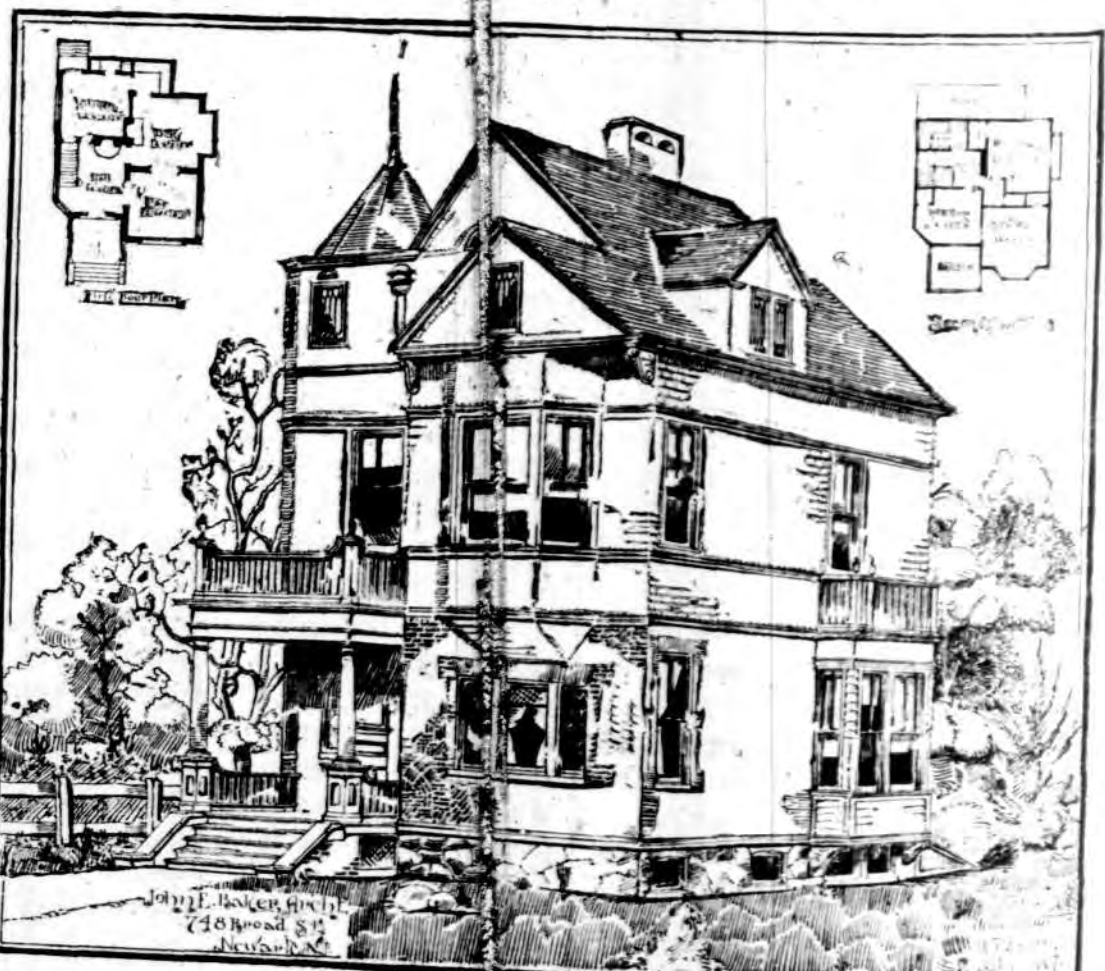
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